GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5933
ANSWERED ON:04.05.2000
SAFETY OF FISHERMEN
PUSHPDAN SHAMBHUDAN GADHAVI

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that a large number of fishermen are reported to be missing from the coastal belt of Kutch and also from some other parts of Gujarat;

(b) if so, the total number of fishermen recorded missing during the last one year and in 2000, till date;

(c) whether the Government propose to set up a Coast Guard post at Jakhau Port in Kutch district of Gujarat so as to ensure the safety of fishermen; and

(d) if not, the other steps being taken to ensure their safety?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE

(SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES)

(a) & (b): Information is being collected from the State Government of Gujarat.

(c) The Coast Guard have identified 3 pieces of land at Jakhau in Gujarat for setting up a Coast Guard Station.The Government of Gujarat is willing to provide all these three pieces of land provided the Ministry of Environment& Forests` clearance is obtained for one acre of land situated near Jakhau port. The clearance of the Ministry of Environment and Forests has not yet been received.

(d) Coast Guard stations regularly interact with fishing community ashore especially those who operate close to the maritime boundary with Pakistan. Regular instructional lectures are conducted to indicate maritime boundaries and safety precautions to be taken. These issues are brought to the knowledge of respective state administration and fisheries departments for strict compliance. Coast Guard ships on routine Exclusive Economic Zone surveillance also direct fishing vessels operating close to International Boundary Line to fish well within the Indian waters.